

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES



NEWS RELEASE

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 Date Issued: Wednesday, September 19, 2012
 Time: 3:00 pm

Prince William Sound Salmon Allocation Plan (5 AAC 24.370) News Release

The department calculated the exvessel value percentages for each gear group using the Commercial Operators Annual Report (COAR) area specific prices and weights and ADF&G harvest estimates of PWSAC enhanced fish by species and gear type (Table 1). The trigger points for corrections in allocation are 45% for purse seine and drift gillnet gear groups and 5% for the set gillnet gear group. The five-year (2007–2011) average value percentages for each gear type are **42.4%** drift gillnet, **57.6%** purse seine, and **4.1%** set gillnet (Table 2). **As a result, the drift gillnet gear group will have exclusive access to the Port Chalmers Subdistrict from June 1 to July 30 in 2013.**

In December 2005, the Alaska Board of Fisheries modified the Prince William Sound Management and Salmon Enhancement Allocation Plan (5AAC 24.370). The modifications eliminate wild stocks and Valdez Fisheries Development Association enhanced fish from the plan and allocate only Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation (PWSAC) enhanced fish. Additionally, a five-year average exvessel value is now used rather than annual value percentages. The set gillnet gear group allocation is now 4% of the five-year average value of PWSAC enhanced salmon stocks. The drift gillnet and purse seine gear groups each receive 50% of the remaining value of PWSAC enhanced salmon stocks. If the set gillnet gear group exceeds 5% of the five-year average value of PWSAC enhanced stocks, they will be limited to no more than 36 hours of fishing time per week beginning July 10 in the year following this calculation. If the drift gillnet gear group harvest value is 45% or less, then in the year following the current calculations, the drift gillnet gear group shall have exclusive access to the Port Chalmers Subdistrict to harvest enhanced salmon returns from June 1 through July 30, during fishing periods established by emergency order. If the purse seine gear group harvest value is 45% or less, then in the year following the current calculations, the purse seine gear group shall have exclusive access to the Esther Subdistrict to harvest enhanced salmon returns from June 1 through July 20, during fishing periods established by emergency order.

Table 1. The 2011 COAR price per pound by gear type, species, and area.

| 2011 | Drift Gillnet | | Purse Seine | Set Gillnet |
|---------|---------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Species | Copper/Bering | Prince William Sound | Prince William Sound | Prince William Sound |
| Chinook | \$5.66 | \$3.97 | \$2.41 | \$2.81 |
| Chum | \$0.38 | \$0.90 | \$0.87 | \$0.88 |
| Coho | \$1.24 | \$1.09 | \$0.89 | \$0.58 |
| Pink | \$0.31 | \$0.40 | \$0.45 | \$0.36 |
| Sockeye | \$2.08 | \$1.56 | \$1.44 | \$1.53 |

Table 2. Values and percentages by gear type for Area E.

| Year | Drift Gillnet | | Purse Seine | | Set Gillnet | |
|--------------|---------------|-------|---------------|-------|--------------|------|
| 2007 | \$8,365,677 | 33.8% | \$16,394,816 | 66.2% | \$1,287,859 | 4.9% |
| 2008 | \$18,059,466 | 33.2% | \$36,411,663 | 66.8% | \$1,300,085 | 2.3% |
| 2009 | \$15,553,269 | 61.5% | \$9,722,045 | 38.5% | \$1,578,785 | 5.9% |
| 2010 | \$36,546,803 | 36.0% | \$64,975,204 | 64.0% | \$3,408,733 | 3.2% |
| 2011 | \$25,232,109 | 65.2% | \$13,468,855 | 34.8% | \$2,867,582 | 6.9% |
| Total | \$103,757,324 | | \$140,972,583 | | \$10,443,044 | |
| 5-yr Average | 42.4% | | 57.6% | | 4.1% | |